New gas and oil exploration

1581. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new gas and oil fields discovered in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for exploitation of oil and gas reserve areas in the different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In the last three years (2002-05) ONGC have made sixteen hydrocarbon discoveries, out of which, four were made in the State of Assam, one in Tripura, two in Gujarat, one in Rajasthan, two in Andhra Pradesh, four in Krishna-Godavari offshore and three in western offshore areas. OIL has also made eleven oil and gas discoveries in Assam. Apart from discoveries made by PSUs, Private/JV Companies have made forty-one oil and gas discoveries, out of which twenty-one discoveries wee made by RIL in eastern offshore areas, fourteen oil and gas discoveries by Cairn Energy Private Limited in Rajasthan and Gujarat offshore areas, two gas discoveries by Niko Resources Limited in Gujarat, three oil and gas discoveries by Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited in Gujarat and eastern offshore areas and one oil and gas discovery was made by Essar Oil Limited.

(b) Continuous efforts are being made for efficient exploration of oil and gas reserves by optimising the output from existing fields, enhancing recovery/augmenting production from producing fields through improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques, putting newer fields on stream as quickly as possible and increasing the reserves base by exploratory activities.

Import of crude

1582. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of crude oil imported by India during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 from various countries;

(b) the details of foreign exchange spent on the import of crude oil during this period; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to produce more oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Details of crude oil imported and foreign exchange spent thereon from various countries during 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as under:

	(MMT)	US $(BILLION)
2004-05	95.861	12.66
2005-06 (April-Dec.)	72.306	27.45

(c) Various measures are being taken to substantially accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production. These measures include the following:

(i) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP): Under NELP, 110 exploration blocks have been awarded to National Oil Companies, foreign companies and private/joint venture companies through International Competitive Bidding. This includes 20 Exploration Blocks recently awarded in the fifth round of NELP;

(ii) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes. In particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;

(iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep waters and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;

(iv) developing newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over and stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas; and

(v) acquiring equity oil and gas from abroad.

Usage of ethanol-blended petrol

1583. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: